

# SULPHUR PASSAGE PROVINCIAL PARK

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

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Approved by:



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Dick Heath  
Regional Manager  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 25/03



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Nancy Wilkin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Mar. 31/03



# SULPHUR PASSAGE PROVINCIAL PARK

## Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

### Primary Role

The **primary** role of Sulphur Passage Park is to protect an entire island of coastal temperate rainforest and the surrounding marine environment. The marine portion of the park contributes to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosession, which is poorly represented in the protected areas system. The park protects coastal and marine ecosystems that offer habitat for marine mammals, resident and migrating birds, fish, and intertidal and subtidal marine organisms (including a biologically significant clam bed in Hayden Passage).

The park is part of an intact coastal ecosystem of old growth Sitka spruce forests, and it protects an unaltered island and undisturbed viewsapes, a narrow passage, a fjord, and part of watersheds and streams which are important spawning grounds for four species of salmon and possible nesting habitat for the nationally threatened marbled murrelet. The park complements Strathcona Park in the protection of natural values associated with the interface between land and water.

### Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to provide a high quality visual experience for visitors exploring Clayoquot Sound, which is a popular destination area for boaters who are seeking the remote natural setting of the wild west coast and undisturbed forests. The park includes Obstruction Island and the passages around it, where several coves and bays provide shelter for small boats. It protects high scenic values for boaters and kayakers exploring the Upper Shelter area of Clayoquot Sound and those headed to the all-weather anchorage in the Megin Talbot entrance to Strathcona Park.

### Tertiary Role

The **tertiary** role is to protect cultural features. Clayoquot Sound has a vibrant First Nations heritage, both past and present. The park has First Nations and post-contact heritage sites that capture glimpses of the past.

### Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of ecological and cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Gather inventory data on park and park values.</li> <li>➤ Undertake a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations.</li> </ul>
Fish farms located, and permitted as a pre-existing use in the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with operators and Land and Water BC Inc. to move fish farms to a more appropriate location away from the park and its values.</li> </ul>
Impact of adjacent industrial activity (forest harvesting, log storage, commercial clam harvesting) on park values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with Ministry of Forests and companies to ensure protection of park values and visual resources.</li> <li>➤ Work with DFO to ensure clam harvesting does not interfere with protection of marine values.</li> </ul>
Participation in Biosphere Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with Biosphere Foundation and Central Region</li> </ul>

	Board to ensure the Environmental Stewardship Division's perspective is taken into account in Biosphere activities and projects.
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**Zoning**

Natural Environment Zone -- covers the entire park (2,298.6 ha). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

## Conservation

Representation  
- ecosection

- Minimal contribution of 0.59% to the representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection (WIM), which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4%.

As the park is adjacent to the Megin/Talbot addition to Strathcona Park, it is part of a larger protected area that contributes significantly to ecosystem representation.

With about 1,943 hectares of foreshore, Sulphur Passage Park contributes 2.2% to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection (VIS), which is poorly protected at 5.4%.

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

- Minimal contribution of 0.35% to the representation of CWHvm1, which has only 7% protected provincially.

Minimal contribution of 0.82% to the representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented in the protected areas system at 19.3%.

Special Features

- A scenic passage, old growth forests, salmon habitat, 8 bald eagle nests

Rare/Endangered Values

- Provincially *red-listed* and nationally *threatened* marbled murrelet. *Blue-listed* great blue heron. *Yellow-listed species of conservation concern* (S4) bald eagle. Potential habitat for Olympia oyster (listed as Special Concern by COSEWIC).

Scientific/Research Opportunities

- Marbled murrelets

## Recreation

Representation

backcountry  
destination  
travel corridor

- Not applicable  
 Not applicable  
 High scenic values for visitors exploring Clayoquot Sound, sea kayaking route

local recreation

- Not Applicable

Special Opportunities

- Not applicable

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

- Not applicable

### Cultural Heritage

- |                 |                                     |  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Representation  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Post contact use -- shore-based fish processing plants |
| Special Feature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | First Nations sites                                    |

### Other Management Considerations

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Other Designations                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Part of Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve  |
| Relationship to other PAs            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Part of a system of protected areas in Clayoquot Sound. Adjacent to Strathcona Park and contributes to the conservation of marine values in Shelter Inlet provided by Strathcona Park. |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Part of the Interim Management Agreement Extension with the Central Region Board   |
| Partnerships                         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Not Applicable   |
| Vulnerability                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Park values are vulnerable to nearby forestry development, and aquaculture and commercial harvesting of clams that occurs inside the park  |
| Relationship to other Strategies     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Interim Measures Extension Agreement. Identified for protection in the 1993 Clayoquot Sound Land Use Decision. Marine Protected Areas Strategy.  |

**Area:** 2,298.6 hectares (355.2 ha upland; 1,943.4 ha foreshore)

**Date of establishment:** July 12, 1995

